

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [00143] with the following amended paragraph:

[00143] FIGS. 17A through [[17D]] 17C schematically illustrate the use of prong 1620 to puncture and create a hanging chad in the wall 1710 of receptacle 1700. Although receptacle 1700 is illustrated in the shape of a capsule, it should be understood that the receptacle may have any other suitable shape, such as a tablet or a blister pack. Receptacle 1700 has a longitudinal axis 1770 substantially parallel to prong 1620 and a minor axis 1780 substantially perpendicular to longitudinal axis 1770.

Please replace paragraph [00144] with the following amended paragraph:

[00144] As shown in FIG. 17A, puncturing surface 1630 of prong 1620 initially punctures a small opening 1740 in wall 1710. Next, as shown in FIG. 17B, prong 1620 is inserted into receptacle 1700 to a depth D, increasing the size of opening 1740 and forming chad 1750 having free end 1755. Substantially planar face 1650 forms a hinge 1760 between chad 1750 and wall 1710 so that chad 1750 is a hanging chad. Finally, as shown in FIG. 17C, prong 1620 is withdrawn from wall 1710, leaving ~~hanging~~ hanging chad 1750 inside of receptacle 1700. Preferably, the angle A between chad 1750 and minor axis 1780, after prong ~~1600~~ 1620 has been removed from receptacle 1700, is at least 30 to 45 degrees in order to facilitate efficient emptying of the receptacle and a high emitted dose.

Please replace paragraph [00145] with the following amended paragraph:

[00145] Several experiments were performed to evaluate the emitted doses achieved using puncturing device ~~1630~~1600. The tests were done with size 00 capsules containing approximately 20 mg per capsule and using a flow rate of approximately 20 L/min for 1.5 seconds.

Please replace paragraph [00149] with the following amended paragraph:

[00149] Other experiments were performed to determine the puncturing depth that could be achieved using puncturing device ~~1630~~1600. First, Staple #3, another prototype having

almost the same structure as Staples #1 and #2, was used to puncture capsules to varying depths. It was determined that the capsules could consistently be punctured to a depth of 0.1495 inches without causing chads to become removed. Next, Staple #5, another prototype of puncturing device **1600** illustrated in FIGS. 16A-D, was used to puncture capsules to varying depths. It was determined that the prongs could be inserted to a depth of at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the length **L** (see FIG. 16B) of the prongs, or approximately 0.2442 inches, without causing the chads to become removed. Accordingly, puncturing device **1600** illustrated in FIGS. 16A-D has significant advantages over other puncturing means because it allows greater depth of puncturing, which allows for greater optimization of the inhaler.

Please replace paragraph **[00151]** with the following amended paragraph:

**[00151]** As shown in FIGS. 18 and 19A-19C, in another embodiment of the present invention, device **100** comprises a means for indicating readiness **1800** of the device for emitting powder-~~**1800**~~. The means for indicating readiness **1800** comprises a body **1820** coupled to inner casing **124** and disposed in outer casing **126**. Body **1820** is reversibly moveable between a first position, as shown in FIGS. 18, 19A and 19C, and a second position, as shown in FIG. 19B. Body **1820** preferably is coupled to compression spring **244** so that it is biased in the first position. In a preferred embodiment, body **1820** comprises a hollow tube of oblong cross section, although it should be understood that body **1820** may have any other suitable shape, such as a round cylinder or rod.